

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SPTA-02
SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03
H-01 PA-01 OES-09 NSF-01 OIC-02 /152 W
-----084843 231430Z /42

R 231354Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8534
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAIRO PASS USDEL TO ECA PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
UNCSTD BUENOS AIRES PASS USDEL TO TCDC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA OCON TECH

SUBJECT: ECLA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
UNCSTD; PANAMA, AUGUST 16-21

1. ECLA MEETING WAS DEVISIVE AND CONTENTIOUS THROUGH-
OUT. AT EARLY STAGE DISAGREEMENT AND UNCERTAINTY
AMONG LATIN COUNTRIES ON BEST APPROACH TO UNCSTD WAS
APPARENT, AS WELL AS SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH DRAFT
REGIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR FOR
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ECLA SECRETARIAT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS. LEADERS IN EFFORT TO SCUTTLE GENERALLY
MODERATE DRAFT REPORT IN FAVOR OF MORE RADICAL AND
DOCTRINAIRE APPROACH WERE VENEZUELA AND CUBA. BRAZIL,
REPRESENTED BY UNUSUALLY STRONG DELEGATION, PLAYED
MORE SUBTLE ROLE, TRYING TO HEAD OFF VENEZUELAN DEL,
WHO WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS ERRATIC AND IMPOSSIBLY

DOCTRINAIRE. ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS, USUALLY SMOOTH AND IN CONTROL, ON THIS OCCASION WAS VISIBLY FRUSTRATED, THE MORE SO AS HE HAD TO WORK WITH WEAK AND INEXPERIENCED CHAIRMEN AND LOOK ON AS ECLA DRAFT WAS TORN TO PIECES, THEN THROWN OUT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PRODUCE A COMPLETE AND FINAL REGIONAL REPORT. BEST THAT COULD BE DONE WAS TO APPROVE SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND FRAGMENTARY DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION WHICH WILL BE BASIS FOR REDRAFTED REGIONAL REPORT, WHICH ECLA SECRETARIAT WILL SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO RESUMED REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING IN DECEMBER.

2. FOLLOWING IS PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER. PER GUATAMALAN PROPOSAL AGREED TO AT FINAL SESSION, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL RECEIVE BY SEPTEMBER 15 REVISED REGIONAL REPORT AND PROGRAM OF ACTION, REDRAFTED BY ECLA SECRETARIAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES AGREED UPON AT PANAMA MEETING. GOVERNMENTS WILL IN TURN SUBMIT COMMENTS ON REVISED DRAFT TO ECLA SECRETARIAT. IN MID-OCTOBER, AN AD HOC GROUP OF GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL EXPERTS WILL MEET TO REVISE AND ELABORATE ON GOVERNMENT COMMENTS. AD HOC GROUP WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM BRAZIL, MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTH CONE, CARIBBEAN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES. AD HOC GROUP WILL SUBMIT RESULTS TO SELA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MID-TO-LATE NOVEMBER WHICH WILL AGREE ON FINAL REVISIONS FOR SECRETARIAT TO MAKE. RESUMED SESSION OF ECLA MEETING IN EARLY DECEMBER IN NEW YORK WILL RATIFY FINAL DOCUMENT. CANADIAN DEL EXPRESSED PRIVATELY RESERVATION THAT TIMETABLE VIOLATED ECOSOC GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL REPORTS AND MIGHT PRESENT UNCSTD SEC GEN FROM COMPLETING DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION IN TIME FOR THIRD PREP CON IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1979.

3. USDEL GENERALLY TOOK LOW-KEY BACKGROUND ROLE DURING SESSION, BUT CIRCULATED IN WRITTEN FORM SUGGESTIONS ON ECLA DRAFT RECEIVED FROM EB, ARA, OES AND OTHER SOURCES. USDEL ALSO WORKED CLOSELY WITH IGLESIAS IN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN HIS ROLE AS MODERATING INFLUENCE. DEL INTERVENED TO INSERT US VIEWS AS MATTER OF RECORD ON TRANSNATIONALS, CODE OF CONDUCT ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, PARIS CONVENTION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL POINTS. THERE WAS SCANT DISPOSITION ON PART OF LATINS, HOWEVER, TO ACCOMMODATE US VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ON TRANSNATIONALS

AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDINGLY, USDEL USED SAME GENERAL RESERVATION AS AT 1976 LA PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UN WATER CONFERENCE, I.E. US JOINED CONSENSUS NOT TO ENDORSE INCOMPLETE IDEAS AND PROPOSALS WHICH EMERGED FROM THIS MEETING, BUT IN BELIEF THAT VARIETY OF PROPOSALS SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE, WHERE FINAL SELECTION WILL BE MADE.

4. AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ANDEAN GROUP PLAYED MOST PROMINENT AND DIVISIVE ROLE WITH VENEZUELA DOMINATING, FREQUENTLY CRITICIZING MNC'S AND CALLING FOR GREATER G-77 SOLIDARITY. BOLIVIA INTRODUCED CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AND

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. COLOMBIA SPONSORED ANDEAN RESOLUTION ON CREATING A NEW FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO SUPPORT LDC S&T ACTIVITIES BY TAXING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. STRONG CUBAN DELEGATION WAS ALSO PROMINENT, CRITICIZING INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY

AND INTRODUCING EXTREME LANGUAGE ON MNC'S WHENEVER POSSIBLE. MEXICO, WHILE SUPPORTING SOME RADICAL MEASURES, TOOK LEAD IN THWARTING ANDEAN RESOLUTIONS BY CHANGING THEM TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY GOVERNMENTS. STRONG BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WAS ALSO INSTRUMENTAL IN COUNTERING SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME AND DISRUPTIVE ANDEAN PROPOSALS. SOUTH CONE DELS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSELY COOPERATED ON A GENERALLY MODERATE JOINT POSITION. CARIBBEANS MADE FEW CONTRIBUTIONS AND ON OCCASION OPENLY CRITICIZED LA MEMBERS FOR IGNORING INTERESTS OF ISLAND STATES. GUATAMALA WAS FAIRLY ACTIVE, OSTENSIBLY AS SPOKESMAN OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

5. MOOD OF FRUSTRATION AT MEETING AND UNDERCURRENT OF BRUISED PERSONAL FEELINGS EXTENDED TO ABSENCE OF UNCSTD SECRETARY GENERAL DA COSTA. SECGEN'S ABSENCE, ALLEGEDLY ON GROUNDS OF "FATIGUE" FROM HEAVY TRAVEL SCHEDULE, WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS: THE RESULT OF ALLEGED PERSONAL SLIGHTS FELT BY DA COSTA IN RECENT CONFRONTATION WITH G-77, INCLUDING LA GROUP, IN GENEVA OVER QUESTION OF FUTURE UNCSTD SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY TIMING OF NEXT PREPCOM NOW POSTPONED TO JANUARY OVER DA COSTA'S OBJECTIONS. THERE WAS SOME QUESTIONING AS TO WHETHER DA COSTA -- NOW SO OBVIOUSLY ON BAD TERMS WITH HIS OWN REGIONAL GROUP -- WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE. AROUND CONFERENCE TABLE OTHER PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS WERE APPARENT AS WELL, MOST NOTABLY IN DESIRE OF MANY LA DELS TO EXCLUDE VENEZUELAN REP, WHO TOOK ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF CONFERENCE TIME IN LAST FEW DAYS, FROM FUTURE ROLE IN PREPARATION OF REGIONAL PAPER.

6. MEETING BEST SUMMARIZED BY INTERVENTION ON FINAL DAY BY BRAZILIAN DEL THAT BEGAN "NEVER IN THE COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HAVE SO MANY TOILED SO MUCH TO PRODUCE SO LITTLE." JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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